THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) World Bank assistance has been sought for implementation of Maharashtra Forestry Project-Phase II, with estimated cost of about Rs. 600 crore.

(b) Externally aided forestry projects are implemented to augment the availability of resources for forestry sector.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Felling of trees in the forest area is allowed only as per approved working plans/management plans. External aid is required to augment the resources for development and conservation of forests.

Poaching in Kaziranga National Park

†425. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poachers are getting access to the Kaziranga National Park;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 20 such cases took place during 1997-98; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken by Government to check such poaching?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir. During the year 1997 and 1998, there were 20 Nos. of poaching cases. The details are as follows:

Year	*No. of poaching cases*
1997	12
1998	8

(c) Action taken by the government to check poaching are as follows:

1. Hunting of wild animals included in Schedule I to IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been banned by the law.

2. Special projects for protection and conservation of tiger, elephant and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

3. Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trade in wild animals reaches them.

4. International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

5. Regional and sub-regional offices of wildlife preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

6. Interdepartmental co-ordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisation like police, BSF, customs, ITBP, coast guard etc. Training programme on enforcement of Wildlife (Protection) Act is also conducted.

7. Staff in national parks and sanctuaries are being provided modern arms, wireless equipments and communication facilities to check poaching in the national parks and sanctuaries.

8. Analogous to the Centre, the states have also been asked to set up co-ordination Committee of all enforcement agencies so that there is effective co-operation to check poaching and control of illegal trade.

Effect of displacement of Tribals on the Forests

†426. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that considerable loss is being caused to the forests/wild animals on account of the tribals being displaced from forests and their entry into the sanctuaries being restricted under Forest (Conservation) Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would enact any alternative law to ensure that inter-dependence between the forests and the inhabitants of forests is revived?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Legislation of any alternative law to revive the inter-dependence between the forest and the inhabitants of forest is not stipulated. The objective is being achieved through implementation of Joint Forest Management and Eco Development programmes through participatory management.

Increasing Water, Air and Noise Pollution

427. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the menace of water, air and noise pollution is increasing in India, particularly in Delhi, day by day; and

(b) what effective steps Government are taking to check such increase in pollution?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.